

# ADAPATIVE SNOOP UTILITY

## ABSTRACT

A system and method for a data link user (e.g., snoop utility) to adapt to a protocol  
5 processed by a data link provider (e.g., device driver). In a system in which a data  
link user connects with a data link provider through DLPI (Data Link Provider  
Interface), the provider is capable of passing to the user a detailed description of a  
communication protocol handled by the provider. The provider may be requested  
10 to send the data if a protocol or media type supported by the provider is of an  
unknown or "other" type. The provider may describe the protocol using XML or  
a detailed set of data portraying the protocol or communication structure.  
Alternatively, the data link provider may send the data link user a Java applet or  
other executable module, or enable the user to invoke a function embedded within  
the provider.